

A KEY TO THE NEARCTIC GENERA OF DERMESTIDAE

By R. S. BEAL, JR.¹

The following new key to the tribes and genera of adult Nearctic Dermestidae is submitted at this time to make it available for inclusion in the forthcoming book on the beetles of North America by Dr. Ross H. Arnett, Jr.

The subfamilies of the Dermestidae recognized by Rees² and other recent students of the family are treated in the key as tribes. In the existing classification of the family only the Anthreninae are divided into tribes. I have shown in a publication which is now in press³ that this tribal division is invalid. It might be possible to find some other basis for arranging the genera of the Anthreninae into tribes, but as the genera now stand, I do not believe this would serve any useful purpose. This leaves the Dermestidae with a number of subfamilies, none of which is divided into tribes. Since the tribe is usually considered a more basic taxonomic unit than the subfamily, there is no other course than to reduce these units in rank.

The group formerly known under the family name Thorictidae is included in the key as the dermestid tribe Thorictini. Both Anderson⁴ and Crowson⁵ have shown the essential relationship of these beetles to the Dermestidae. I see no reason for not including them here, unless it is just pure deference to tradition. The group is represented in the United States by the single species *Thorictodes heydeni* Reitter, of which the synonym *Thaumaphrastus karanisiensis* Blaisdell is perhaps better known.

Several genera are included here which have not previously been reported from North America. Each of these genera is represented by one or more species found in the United States, and notice of them is being given elsewhere.

1. Antenna with an apical club; abdomen with five externally visible sternites; elytra present in both sexes 2
 Antenna filiform, without an apical club; abdomen with seven externally visible sternites; female larviform (without elytra or hind wings) (Thylodriini) **Thylodrias**

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²U. S. Dept. Agric. Misc. Pub. No. 511, pp. 1-18.

³Dermestidae. Coleoptera. Insects of Micronesia. Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

⁴1949. Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc., 64:121-129.

⁵1955. Natural Classification of the Families of Coleoptera. London. Pp. 1-187

2. Compound eyes present; legs more or less retractile; hind femora received in groove in coxae; large or small beetles..... 3
 --- Compound eyes absent; legs not retractile; hind coxae not grooved for reception of femora; minute beetles (less than 2 mm. long) with general appearance of a *Dermestes* (*Thorictini*)**Thorictodes**
3. Dorsal surface covered with long or short hair or scales; front legs in repose not covering antennae in antennal fossae; metacoxal laminae not extending to sides of body 4
 --- Dorsal surface glabrous; front legs in repose completely covering antennae within antennal fossae; metacoxal laminae extending to sides of body (*Orphilini*)....**Orphilus**
4. Pronotum without sublateral carinae; small or large beetles with suberect or subrecumbent hair or scales 5
 --- Pronotum with sublateral carinae extending from base nearly to anterior margin with mesal side of each carina depressed or somewhat sulcate; small (less than 2½ mm. long), strongly convex beetles covered with moderately long, erect hair (*Trinodini*)**Apsectus**
5. Head with median ocellus (except in a few rare species less than 4 mm. in length); species less than 5.5 mm. long; procoxae not contiguous at apices..... 6
 --- Head without an ocellus; species 5.5 mm. to 12 mm. long; procoxae large and contiguous at apices (*Dermestini*)**Dermestes**
6. First segment of hind tarsus much shorter than second segment; metacoxal lamina bearing a distinct tooth or distinctly broadened laterad to insertion of femur (*Attagenini*) 7
 --- First segment of hind tarsus as long as or longer than second segment; metacoxal laminae with margins subparallel or gradually narrowed laterally (*Anthrenini*).... 8
7. Segments of antennal club compact; in male the length of the ultimate segment greatly exceeds the combined length of the two preceding segments.....**Attagenus**
 --- Segments of antennal club loosely joined; in male the length of the ultimate segment shorter than the combined length of the two preceding segments, or all three segments greatly elongate, the penultimate segment twice as long as wide**Novelsis**
8. Vestiture of hairs (some of which may be slightly ensiform but never scale-like).... 9
 --- Vestiture of flat, conspicuously colored scales.....**Anthrenus**
9. Antennal fossa partially or completely closed behind..... 10
 --- Antennal fossa broadly open behind, posterior margin of fossa with or without a medial tumescence but never with a distinct carina..... 14
10. Pronotum with a small, short, diagonal, impunctate area on either side of basal lobe; male antennae with eleventh segment immensely enlarged, subtriangular, approximately twice as wide as length of preceding segments combined; female with eleventh segment of antennae small, about as long as length of ninth and tenth segments combined**Thaumaglossa**
 --- Pronotum without impunctate areas on either side of basal lobe; antennal club composed of two or more segments..... 11
11. Club of antenna composed of two segments..... 12
 --- Club of antenna composed of three or more segments..... 13

12. Club of antenna elongate or oval in outline; penultimate segment longer than terminal segment **Cryptorhopalum**
 --- Club of antenna nearly circular in outline; penultimate segment equal to or shorter than terminal segment..... **Orphinus**
13. Club of antenna composed of three large, subtriangular segments, the length of the club in the male more than twice the length of the preceding eight segments combined **Ctesias**
 --- Club of antenna composed of three to eight segments, the length of the last three segments in the male shorter than the length of the preceding eight segments combined; segments of club symmetrical, pectinate, or flabellate, but if club of three or four segments then segments always more or less symmetrical **Trogoderma**
14. Antenna composed of nine segments; dorsal integument and pubescence uniformly dark brown **Dearthrus**
 --- Antenna composed of eleven segments; dorsal integument sometimes with light maculations; dorsal pubescence uniform in color or of hairs of two or three colors **Megatoma**

REVIEW

Hispine beetles from the South Pacific (Coleoptera:Chrysomelidae).

J. LINSLEY GRESSITT, *Nova Guinea, n.s.*, vol. 8, pt. 2, pp. 205-324, Dec. 20, 1957, (Leiden).

The hispine beetles form one of the more distinct and striking groups of chrysomelid beetles. In a concise introductory section devoted to zoogeography, Dr. Gressitt concludes that it is obvious that the fauna of the New Guinea area is Oriental in origin. Rather interesting is the fact that this group of insects is not represented in the fauna of Hawaii, Southeastern Polynesia and New Zealand. It is probable that these beetles can be dispersed only when there is available, in transit, a supply of living plant tissue. For this reason dispersion over large bodies of water is not to be expected.

Of the 145 species treated in the publication, some 38 are endemic to single islands or island groups. The island of New Guinea has some 60 species, 50 of them being endemic. However, New Guinea has only 1 endemic genus whereas the Solomons, with 21 endemic species, has 4 endemic genera.

The paper contains conventional keys to tribes, genera and species of the Pacific fauna. The 32 genera are arranged in 10 tribes. There are described 38 new species and 4 new genera. The new species are illustrated by fine drawings by Dorothy Rainwater and, in most cases, the genitalia (aedeagus) have been drawn by Gressitt himself. Information is given on biology and immature stages, when known, the discussion of biology being either included, or referred to when previously published.

This fine treatment of the hispine beetles is recommended to those interested in the subfamily or as a component of the fauna of the South Pacific.—W. H. ANDERSON, Entomology Research Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture.